JUVENILE JUSTICE/Internet Filters and Screening Software

SUBJECT: Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999 . . . S. 254. Hatch/Leahy amendment No. 335.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 100-0

SYNOPSIS: As introduced, S. 254, the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999, will modernize Federal grant programs that give aid to State and local governments for juvenile law enforcement and juvenile crime prevention efforts. Approximately \$1 billion per year for the next 5 years will be authorized for those grant programs. Also, \$100 million annually will be authorized for joint Federal-State-local efforts to address gang-related juvenile crime.

The Hatch/Leahy amendment would require internet service providers to offer to residential customers, for free or at cost, computer software or other filtering devices that the customers could use to prevent the access of minors to material on the Internet. Surveys would be conducted 1 year, 2 years, and 3 years after enactment of this Act to determine the percentage of residential customers who were being given access to screening devices by their internet service providers. The requirement that such devices be provided for free or at cost would only take effect if fewer than 75 percent of customers in the first year, 85 percent of customers in the second year, or 100 percent of customers in the third year were not being provided filtering devices for free or at cost.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

This amendment is largely intended to protect children from violent and obscene internet material by requiring internet service providers to give parents the tools they need to protect their children from such material. The largest internet service provider already provides such a screening device as part of its basic service. We do not think it is too much to ask to make other providers follow suit. In fact, we believe they will do so even without this amendment in response to consumer demand. We are confident that the amendment is constitutional because it makes no distinction based on content. Parents would decide what type of material they

(See other side) **YEAS (100)** NOT VOTING (0) NAYS (0) Republicans **Democrats** Republicans Republican **Democrats** Democrats (55 or 100%) (45 or 100%) (0 or 0%) (0 or 0%) (0)(0)Kennedy Abraham Hutchinson Akaka Allard Baucus Kerrey Hutchison Ashcroft Inhofe Bayh Kerry Bennett Jeffords Biden Kohl Bond Kyl Bingaman Landrieu Brownback Lott Boxer Lautenberg Bunning Lugar Breaux Leahv Burns Mack Bryan Levin Lieberman Campbell Byrd McCain Chafee McConnell Cleland Lincoln Cochran Murkowski Conrad Mikulski Collins Nickles Daschle Moynihan Coverdell Roberts Dodd Murray Craig Roth Dorgan Reed Reid **EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:** Crapo Santorum Durbin Robb DeWine Sessions Edwards 1—Official Business Domenici Rockefeller Shelby Feingold 2-Necessarily Absent Enzi Smith. Bob Feinstein Sarbanes 3-Illness Fitzgerald Smith, Gordon Graham Schumer 4-Other Harkin Torricelli Frist Snowe Gorton Specter Hollings Wellstone SYMBOLS: Wyden Gramm Stevens Inouye AY-Announced Yea Johnson Grams Thomas AN-Announced Nav Grassley Thompson PY-Paired Yea Thurmond Gregg Voinovich PN-Paired Nay Hagel Warner Hatch Helms

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wanted to screen. They might block violent or obscene sites; they might block commercial sites; they might block sites that advocated a certain point of view. It would be up to the parents. We urge our colleagues to accept this amendment.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.